

1945

## Copy of Letter Sent to H.U. Men and Women in Armed Forces

MSRC Staff

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OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY

HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON 1, D. C.

March 20, 1945

*Miss Ryan 7*  
*30 additional*  
*Copies for use in*  
*his annual report.*  
*Ab once*

Dear Howardite:

I have received hundreds of letters from the sons and daughters of Howard, who are scattered over the entire face of the globe, since my last letter to you. Scarcely a day passes during which some service man does not return to his alma mater and drop in to see me. The other day, Captain Walton C. Jackson, back from Rabaul and points in the Southwest Pacific spent several pleasant hours visiting with me; and while working at the local Rationing Board, near the University, in came Master Sergeant Russell Hines, just back from Italy on a furlough; while Major John B. West spent several days in the city on his way back to Africa to head a five year health commission for the Republic of Liberia.

Word has reached the University of the following casualties in the armed services among graduates and former students of Howard: Deceased- James West Butcher, Albert Henry Cephas, James Van Buren, Wilmet Sidat-Singh, Herbert Orr, John B. Powell, William Davis, George F. Welch, Edgar Patterson, Charles Barton, Hazel Dixon Payne, Kenneth Coleman, Edward Muse, Charles Gandy, Hubert M. Moman, George Jones, and Percy P. Banton; Wounded - Roger Kyles, James Lightfoot, Rudolph D. Raiford, Craig Wesley, Albert Price, Edgar Felton and Walter Dabney; Missing- Ross C. Stewart.

It is our earnest hope that the University, America, and the world remembers with deep reverence the sacrifice which our young men and women are making in this war. We hope that a better America shall await those who return to us. Here at the University we are trying in a small way to contribute in some measure to a better life for our returning veterans.

One hundred six veterans are now studying at the University under Public Laws Numbers 16 and 346 (the G.I. Bill of Rights.) We hope that our graduates and former students will take advantage of the opportunities offered by these bills not only to complete their education but to purchase homes and to engage in business. We have set up a Veterans' Counseling Advisory Service at the University in Room 144, Douglass Hall under the direction of Mr. Carroll L. Miller of the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts. The University has set up a general committee for the supervision of the education of veterans at the University, under the direction of the Secretary of the University.

A significant innovation at the University this winter has been the following series of lectures on the Negro in the Post-War World: "An Analysis of What the Negro Wants"-Rayford Logan, Howard; "Post-War Outlook for Employment Gains Achieved by Negroes During the War"-John A. Davis, F.E.P.C. "The Negro Family in the Post-War World"-E. Franklin Frazier, Howard; "Public Housing"-Frank Horn, Federal Public Housing; "Private Housing"-Franklin M. Thorne, Manager, Day Village; "Effect of Negro War Migration"-Wilfred Leland, F.E.P.C.; "An Analysis of When Peoples Meet"-Alain L. Locke, Howard; "Public

*Copy of letter sent to: Men + women*  
*in the armed service.*



Health"-Paul B. Cornely, Howard; "Negro Education in the Post-War World"-Charles H. Thompson; Howard; "The Significance to the Negro on Proposals for International Organizations"-Ralph J. Bunche, Howard.

Now for one or two news items about the University: The enrollment this quarter at Howard is 3,125.

Charter Day Services were held in Andrew Rankin Chapel on March 2, '45. Mr. Channing Tobias, Trustee, delivered the address. Alumni awards were presented to Dr. Eva B. Dykes, Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, and Atty. Charles W. Anderson. The traditional Charter Day Dinner was observed in Frazier Hall the same evening. The recipients of the Alumni Awards were the speakers. This Charter Day Dinner was different in one respect from all previous dinners. The dinner was "MEATLESS"!

On Friday, February 23, 1945 a student-faculty talent show was given in the Medical School Auditorium. The G.I. Band rendered several numbers. An act "It Won't Happen Here" featured Dean Warner Lawson as a student. Howard has some fine talent among its faculty and students-dancers, pianists and singers.

Just before five o'clock one evening last month, someone yelled "fire" in Miner Hall. The alarm blasted out and every one hurried from the building. The end of Miner Hall nearest Founders Library was in flames and the fellows residing in the dorm were quite excited. Mr. V. D. Johnston, Treasurer, stood speechless for awhile then requested the firemen to put the fire out but not to damage the building.

Now for some items from your most interesting letters to me: France-Lt. Herbert Hardin writes: "Our boys are doing a fine job here and are receiving credit for their operations. Hardly a day passes without mention being made of the heroic actions of our boys. Those of us who are here and see the terrible things war does to a country, will do all in our power as citizens when we return to see to it that our children will not have to be bothered with a war.

Would you find out for me what steps the law schools of the country are making for refresher courses for law graduates who haven't taken a bar examination before being inducted and who want to do so upon returning to civilian life? Will such a course be offered at Howard."

Lt. Hardin threatens a law suit against the Secretary of the University for omitting his name from the Directory of Howardites in the Armed Services.

Sgt. Robert H. Wynn writes: "I recently received a copy of the University Bulletin and a letter of personal greeting signed by the president. I wish to say that it was a very pleasant surprise being remembered by my Alma Mater, and of course it brought back many pleasant memories and associations.

Naturally we over here are attempting to do our duty as efficiently and expeditiously as possible in order to bring about a near future victory and return to our homes. In this attempt we are guided and energized by the memory of Ol' Howard and the principles and spirit given us by the faculty body while under their tutorship."



Capt. J. F. Harris writes: "Please accept my thanks for the beautiful greeting you as Secretary of the University sent out to Alumni in the Armed Forces. With such an accelerated plan as the University now has in action, it is really thoughtful of you and your staff to remember former students who are now scattered over the world. Since being in the Armed Services, I have had the opportunity of attending the Army Medical School in Washington, D. C. and the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in London, England completing the courses offered at both institutions."

Lt. George Snipes, England, writes: "As I read the bulletins and gazed upon the pictures contained therein, my mind wondered back to September '38 when I became a Freshman. I can paint a very vivid picture within my mind of the campus activities in spite of the hazing by the upper classmen. It matters not where you may be, let us fight hard in order to maintain that which our Great Alma Mater stands for."

In my organization there are two other Howardites: 1st Lt. William H. Atkinson, '38, our Battalion Surgeon and incidentally my Commanding Officer and Capt. Beatrice F. R. Lawson, '42 is our Battalion Surgeon.

Since I have been here, I have had the opportunity to visit London, Bristol, and a few smaller towns. In London, to my pleasant surprise, I found Miss Julia Johnson, '42 as an ARC Hostess at the ARC Liberty Club. A few miles from our station, Miss Connie Randall is directing an ARC Club."

Italy- 1st Lt. Gorham L. Black recalls himself to me as being the little upstart campus politician who did increase my services in 1938-41. Black further states: "It is impossible to describe the feeling of pride that is aroused by receipt of letters and news bulletins from Howard and to know that old Howard U. hasn't forgotten her boys overseas."

1st. Lt. Thomas Robinson states that he is on the Italian front where the terrain is very rough. He is serving with a heavy weapons company as platoon leader of a machine gun platoon. Lt. Robinson is a classmate of the late Capt. Herbert Orr. He regrets that his name did not appear in the Directory of Men in the Armed Services.

Capt. James T. Toliver writes: "We are fighting among other things for our children to enjoy the same educational opportunities in a free democratic land. There are many ex-Howardites in this organization which makes for a deeper fraternal feeling among us."

Lt. G. P. Thomas writes: "Why haven't I, a more or less distinguished Alumnus of Howard's class of '41 been receiving copies of the Bulletin?" Incidentally he is now a first LT.

Lt. Wendell M. Lucas and S/Sgt. Elliott Lucas, brothers met in Italy recently. This is the first time the brothers have seen one another for over two years.

Southwest Pacific-Capt. Herbert B. Henderson states that he is so glad that the University has not forgotten the boys who are so far away from home. Capt. Cervera Little is the only other member of my class with the 93rd Division.



Belgium-T/Sgt. Frederic Clanagan writes: "This globular war is certainly a big classroom. Many of the teachings are a little rough. The yesterdays' tune will not do. New times will automatically demand new techniques, with more real life—the practical things taught. Of course this will lessen the syntax and we will demand more citizenship with the infusion of more humanity.

I hope it will be possible for Howard to inaugurate some sort of program after the war which would enable all Howard men and women to meet once a year for one week for a good old "homecoming".

Emily May Harper has arrived in India to serve with the American Red Cross.

Constance M. Randall and Theodora E. McGill have arrived in England to serve with the Red Cross.

1st Lt. Yancey Williams and Flight Officer William W. Stephenson have received their wings at Tuskegee Army Air Field.

Lt. Leonard F. Turner, who participated in many aerial battles in the Mediterranean theatre of operations, has been assigned to TAAF.

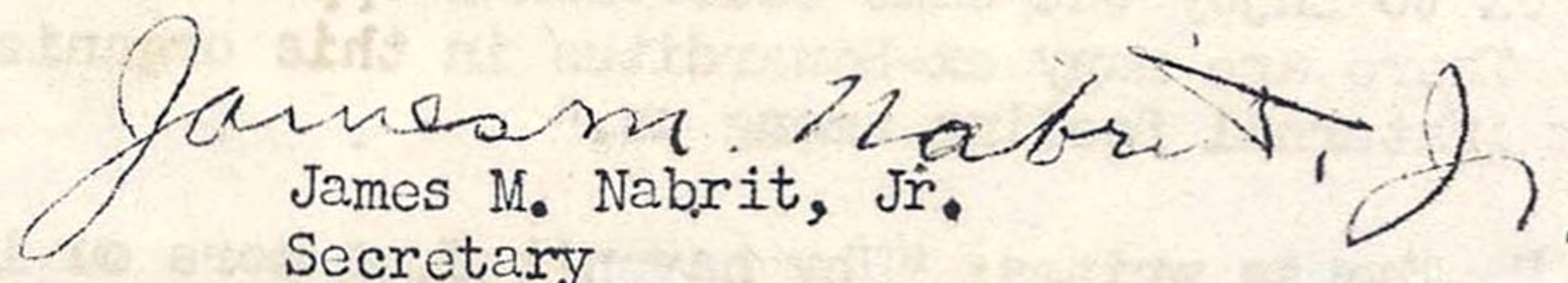
A very newsy letter was received from Lester E. Florant who is stationed at the Naval Training School in Chicago. Florant is in Radio Technician School and like many others plans to attend Howard and complete requirements for his degree after the war.

Frank Carroll Gordon graduated from recruit training as honor man of his company at the U.S. Naval Training Station.

Miss Ahnastasia E. Scott has returned to the states after serving with the American Red Cross for the past two years. Her experiences with the British Colored Peoples is to be long remembered. In private life she is the wife of Herbert L. Dudley, prominent Detroit Attorney.

The prayers and thoughts of the University community are with you daily. Personally, I wish for you the realization of your most cherished dreams.

Sincerely yours,

  
James M. Nabrit, Jr.  
Secretary